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JOB SEARCH EXPERIENCE OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, TASMANIA, JULY 1985

INQUIRIES

Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made by telephoning Hobart (002) 209 450 (Mr Frank McCallum). For other inquiries, including copies of publications, telephone the Information Officer on Hobart (002) 209 409. The Tasmanian Office of the Bureau is located on the 3rd Floor of the Commonwealth Government Centre, 188 Collins Street, Hobart (G.P.O. Box 66A, Hobart, 7001).

MAIN FEATURES

- In July 1985 50 per cent of Tasmanian unemployed persons were in the age group 15-24 years.
- The average duration of the current period of unemployment for males who were unemployed at July 1985 was 77.3 weeks while for females it was 56.7 weeks.
- 52 per cent of unemployed persons stated that their main difficulty in finding work was that there were no vacancies in their line of work or no vacancies at all.
- 49 per cent of unemployed persons had not attended the highest level of secondary school; 28 per cent had attended the highest level of secondary school while 19 per cent had obtained post school qualifications.
- 29 per cent of unemployed persons indicated that they would move Interstate if offered a suitable job.
- 51 per cent of unemployed persons indicated that they would move Intrastate if offered a suitable job.

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

The monthly Population Survey (which is described in The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0)) comprises the monthly labour force survey and supplementary topics. For July 1985 a set of State specific tables was produced from this supplementary survey and forms the basis for this publication.

2. Of the respondents to the labour force survey, those who fell within the scope of the supplementary survey were asked additional questions. This subset of respondents was asked about their job search experience, including their difficulties in finding work, steps taken to find work and whether they had had offers of employment, as well as about their educational attainment and the particulars of their last job, if any.

Scope

3. The scope of this supplementary survey was the same as that used for the labour force survey (described in full in The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0)) except that it was restricted to unemployed persons excluding those who were waiting to be called back to a full-time or part-time job from which they had been stood down without pay for less than four weeks up to the end of the survey week (including the whole of the survey week) for reasons other than bad weather or plant breakdown.

4. The number of unemployed persons published in The Labour Force, Australia, July 1985 (6203.0) differs from that published for this survey because persons who were stood down were excluded as it was inappropriate to ask them about their job search experience. Persons who were stood down comprised less than 1.9 per cent of all unemployed persons at the Australian level.

Definitions

5. Active steps taken to find work comprise: writing, telephoning or applying in person to an employer for work; answering a newspaper advertisement for a job; checking factory or Commonwealth Employment Service noticeboards; being registered with the Commonwealth Employment Service; checking or registering with any other employment agency; advertising or tendering for work; and contacting friends or relatives.

6. For this survey unemployed persons are those who were not employed during the survey week (i.e. the week immediately preceding that in which the interview took place), had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the survey week, and:

- (a) were available for work in the survey week, or would have been available except for temporary illness (i.e. lasting for less than four weeks to the end of the survey week); or
- (b) were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the survey week and would have started in the survey week if the job had been available then.

7. Persons with a post-school qualifications are those who have left school and who have answered 'Yes' to the question: 'Since leaving school have you obtained a certificate, diploma, degree or any other qualification?'

8. Classification of post-school qualifications. Respondents indicated which one of the following groups best described their highest qualification:

- (a) Degree: a bachelor degree (including honours), a graduate or post-graduate diploma, a masters degree or a doctorate;
- (b) Trade; technical or other certificate: completion of an approved trade/technician apprenticeship or training course, other certificate or diploma in secretarial or business studies, administration, teaching, nursing, etc;
- (c) Other: completion of other post-secondary education e.g. adult education, preparatory/bridging course or hobby course.

9. It is impracticable to obtain information relating to the whole of the previous twelve months which is strictly comparable with that obtained in the monthly labour force survey for which the reference period is one week. The definitions used in determining duration of current period of unemployment (see paragraph 10 following) depend on a detailed set of questions. The items time spent looking for work and number of spells of looking for work during the previous twelve months (see paragraphs 11 and 12 following) are based on a more limited set of questions. It is for this reason that the term looking for work is used for these items rather than the more rigidly defined term unemployment.

10. Duration of current period of unemployment is the period from the time the person began looking for work or was laid off to the end of the survey week. Thus this item measures the current (and continuing) period of unemployment rather than a completed spell. For persons who may have begun looking for work while still employed, the duration of current period of unemployment is defined as the period from the time the person last worked full-time for two weeks or more to the end of the survey week. Periods of unemployment are recorded in complete weeks and this results in a slight understatement of duration. Average (mean) duration is the duration obtained by dividing the aggregate number of weeks a group has been unemployed by the number of persons in that group. Median duration is the duration which divides unemployed persons into two equal groups, one comprising persons whose duration of unemployment is above the median and the other, persons whose duration is below it.

11. Time spent looking for work in the previous twelve months is the total number of weeks the person reported having been out of work and looking for a job, including the weeks in the current period.

12. The number of spells of looking for work in the previous twelve months is the number of different periods, including the current period, during which the person reported having been out of work and looking for a job.

13. A job is any paid employment, full-time or part-time, lasting two weeks or more.

EXPLANATORY NOTES - continued

14. Estimates of family status in this publication use the classifications 'with' or 'without dependent children present' which are used in the publication Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families (6224.0), which contains data compiled from the same survey. In the July supplementary survey more detailed information on family status is collected, enabling the use of this classification. Dependent children comprise all family members aged 0 to 14 and all family members aged 15 to 20 who are full-time students. The family status estimates published monthly in The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0) use the classifications 'with' or 'without children aged 0 to 14 present' rather than 'with' or 'without dependent children present'. Further information about family status is given in both the above publications. Other supplementary publications also use the same classifications as The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0).

15. Further definitions of labour force and demographic classifications appearing in this publication are given in The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0).

16. Unless otherwise stated, all characteristics referenced in this publication are as at the survey week.

Results of the survey

17. Results of similar surveys, the first conducted in May 1976, have been given in previous issues of the Central Office publication.

Reliability of the estimates

18. It is proposed that this survey will next be conducted in June 1986.

19. Estimates in this publication are subject to two sources of error:

- (a) sampling error: since the estimates are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey. More information on this topic is given in the Technical note.
- (b) non-sampling error: inaccuracies may occur because of imperfections in reporting by interviewers and respondents and errors made in the coding and processing of data. These inaccuracies may occur in any enumeration, whether it be a full count or a sample. Every effort is made to reduce the non-sampling error to a minimum by careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers and efficient operating procedures.

Related publications

20. Other ABS publications which may be of interest include:

The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0) - issued monthly (\$1.20, \$2.10 incl. postage)

Job Search Experience of Unemployed Persons, Australia, July 1985 (6222.0)

Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families, July 1984 (6224.0)

Labour Force Experience, Australia, During the Year Ending February 1985 (6206.0)

Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia (6220.0) - surveyed twice-yearly (March and September)

Employment, Underemployment and Unemployment 1966-1983, Australia (6246.0) (\$1.70, \$2.40 incl. postage)

Methods of Obtaining Jobs, Australia, July 1982 (6245.0).

21. Further information about publications produced by the ABS are listed in the Catalogue of Publications (1101.0) which is available from any ABS Office, free of charge.

Symbols and other usages

- * subject to sampling variability too high for most practical uses. See Appendix A.
- .. not applicable
- n.a. not available

22. Because figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

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TABLE 1. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS : AGE GROUP, JULY 1985, TASMANIA
(000's)

Age group (Years)	Males	Females	Persons
15 - 19	2.4	1.7	4.1
20 - 24	2.7	1.2	3.9
25 - 34	2.2	1.1	3.3
35 and over	3.4	1.2	4.6
TOTAL	10.8	5.2	16.0

TABLE 2. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS : DURATION OF CURRENT PERIOD OF UNEMPLOYMENT, JULY 1985, TASMANIA
(000's)

Duration of current period of unemployment (weeks)	Males	Females	Persons
1 and under 4	*	*	1.1
4 and under 8	*	*	1.5
8 and under 26	1.7	*	2.6
26 and under 52	1.8	1.2	3.0
52 and over	5.7	2.1	7.8
TOTAL	10.8	5.2	16.0
Average duration (weeks)	77.3	56.7	70.6
Median duration (weeks)	52	30	42

TABLE 3. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS : WHETHER HAD WORKED FULL-TIME , JULY 1985, TASMANIA
(000's)

Whether had worked full-time	Males	Females	Persons
Looking for first full-time job	1.3	1.1	2.4
Had worked before	9.5	4.1	13.6
TOTAL	10.8	5.2	16.0

TABLE 4. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS : MAIN DIFFICULTY IN FINDING WORK DURING CURRENT PERIOD OF UNEMPLOYMENT,
JULY 1985, TASMANIA
(000's)

Main difficulty in finding work	Males	Females	Persons
Considered too young or too old by employers	1.2	*	1.9
Lacked necessary skills/education	1.3	*	1.8
No vacancies in line of work	1.6	*	2.1
No vacancies at all	4.2	2.0	6.2
Own ill health or injury	*	*	1.1
Unsuitable hours			
Too far to travel/transport problems	1.3	*	1.6
Language difficulties			
Insufficient work experience	*	*	1.3
Other difficulties			
No difficulties reported			
TOTAL	10.8	5.2	16.0

TABLE 5. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS : EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, JULY 1985, TASMANIA
(000's)

Educational attainment	Males	Females	Persons
With post school qualifications	2.2	*	3.1
Degree	*	*	*
Trade; technical or other certificate	1.9	*	2.4
Other	*	*	*
Without post school qualifications (a)	8.2	4.1	12.3
Attended highest level of secondary school available	2.6	1.9	4.5
Did not attend highest level of secondary school available			
Left at age -			
18 or more	*	*	*
16 or 17	1.5	*	2.4
14 or 15	3.9	1.3	5.1
13 or under	*	*	*
Still at school	*	*	*
TOTAL	10.8	5.2	16.0

(a) Includes persons who never attended school.

TABLE 6. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS : FAMILY STATUS, JULY 1985, TASMANIA

(000's)

Family Status	Males	Females	Persons
Member of a family	8.7	4.4	13.1
Husband and wife			
with dependant children present	3.1	1.3	4.4
without dependant children present	1.1	0.9	2.0
Not married family head (with or without dependant children present)	*	*	*
Full time student aged 15-20	*	*	*
Other child of family head (a)	3.9	1.8	5.7
Other relative of family head	*	*	*
Not a member of a family	1.9	*	2.7
Living alone	*	*	1.0
Not living alone	1.1	*	1.7
Not family coded	*	*	*
TOTAL	10.8	5.2	16.0

(a) Aged 15 and over

TABLE 7. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS : NUMBER OF SPELLS OF LOOKING FOR WORK IN THE PREVIOUS TWELVE MONTHS,
JULY 1985, TASMANIA
(000's)

Number of spells of looking for work in the previous twelve months	Males	Females	Persons
One	9.2	4.8	14.1
Two	1.2	*	1.5
Three or more	*	*	*
TOTAL	10.8	5.2	16.0

TABLE 8. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS : TIME SPENT LOOKING FOR WORK IN THE PREVIOUS TWELVE MONTHS,
JULY 1985, TASMANIA
(000's)

Time spent looking for work in the previous twelve months (weeks)	Males	Females	Persons
1 and under 4	*	*	1.0
4 and under 8	*	*	1.1
8 and under 26	1.7	*	2.4
26 and under 52	2.3	1.4	3.7
52	5.7	2.1	7.8
TOTAL	10.8	5.2	16.0

TABLE 9. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS : WHETHER WOULD MOVE INTERSTATE, JULY 1985, TASMANIA
(000's)

Whether would move interstate	Males	Females	Persons
If offered a suitable job			
Would move	3.5	1.1	4.7
Would not move	5.4	3.6	9.0
Moving Interstate would depend on - Job conditions; personal/family reasons; the State and undecided	1.8	*	2.3
TOTAL	10.8	5.2	16.0

TABLE 10. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS : WHETHER WOULD MOVE INTRASTATE, JULY 1985, TASMANIA
(000's)

Whether would move Intrastate	Males	Females	Persons
If offered a suitable job			
Would move	6.0	2.1	8.1
Would not move	3.2	2.9	6.1
Moving Intrastate would depend on - Job conditions; personal/family reasons; the locality and undecided	1.6	*	1.7
TOTAL	10.8	5.2	16.0

TABLE 11. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS WHO WERE WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS IN THEIR LAST FULL-TIME JOB AND WHO FINISHED
WORKING IN THAT JOB DURING THE TWO YEARS ENDING JULY 1985 : AGE GROUP, TASMANIA
(000's)

Age group (Years)	Males	Females	Persons
15 - 19	1.3	*	1.8
20 - 24	1.7	*	2.3
25 - 34	*	*	1.1
35 and over	1.5	*	1.8
TOTAL	5.3	1.7	7.0

TABLE 12. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS WHO WERE WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS IN THEIR LAST FULL-TIME JOB AND WHO FINISHED WORKING
IN THAT JOB DURING THE TWO YEARS ENDING JULY 1985 : DURATION OF THAT JOB, TASMANIA
(000's)

Duration of last full time job (weeks)	Males	Females	Persons
2 and under 8	1.6	*	2.1
8 and under 52	1.8	*	2.6
52 and over	1.9	*	2.3
TOTAL	5.3	1.7	7.0

TABLE 13. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS WHO WERE WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS IN THEIR LAST FULL-TIME JOB AND WHO FINISHED WORKING IN THAT JOB DURING THE TWO YEARS ENDING JULY 1985 : REASON FOR LEAVING THAT JOB, TASMANIA
(000's)

Reason for leaving last full-time job	Males	Females	Persons
Retrenched/lost job	2.5	*	3.0
Job was temporary or seasonal	1.3	*	1.8
Unsatisfactory work arrangements	*	*	1.0
Own ill health or injury			
Other reasons (a)	*	*	1.1
TOTAL	5.3	1.7	7.0

(a) Includes to return to studies; to marry/have children/look after family; move house/spouse transferred; travel/ to take a holiday.

APPENDIX A : STANDARD ERROR

Two types of error are possible in an estimate based on a sample survey; sampling error and non-sampling error. The sampling error is a measure of the variability that occurs by chance because a sample, rather than the entire population, is surveyed. Since the estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings they are subject to sampling variability; that is, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the surveys. One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error, which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of dwellings was included. There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors. The standard error can also be expressed as a percentage of the estimate, and this is known as the relative standard error.

STANDARD ERRORS

Published estimate	Standard error of the estimate	Published estimate	Standard error of the estimate
1 000	250	4 500	480
1 300	280	5 000	500
1 500	300	6 000	540
1 800	330	10 000	660
2 000	340	20 000	860
2 500	380	50 000	1 150
3 000	410	100 000	1 450
3 500	440	200 000	1 750
4 000	460		